

PHDCCI is yet to prepare the comprehensive paper on this issue. Government have no information as to whether FPCCI has submitted any action plan on this issue to the Pakistan Government.

[Translation]

**Privatisation of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions**

1239. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to privatise some public sector banks and financial institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present for privatisation of any public sector bank. So far, the State Bank of India and four nationalised banks viz. Oriental Bank of Commerce, Dena Bank, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India have raised additional equity from the capital market. The statutes governing the public sector banks do not envisage majority shareholding of the public sector banks by private shareholders. In so far as financial institutions are concerned, there is no proposal for their privatisation under consideration of the Government at present.

[English]

**Amendment to Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973**

1240. DR. ASIM BALA :

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to make changes/amendments in Coal Mines Act, 1973 and the Mines and Minerals Regulation Act, 1957;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have accepted the recommendations of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy to set up an independent body for exploration of coal and lignite resources and to offer new mining blocks to Indian Companies including public sector companies and power utilities on the basis of competitive bidding. Legislative changes would be necessary to implement these decisions.

[Translation]

**Indo-French Economic and Cultural Co-operation**

1241. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the Indo-French Economic and Cultural Co-operation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the main projects assisted by France and the year-wise progress made under these projects during the last three years;
- (d) the details of the projects under consideration for Indo-French co-operation; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the Indo-French economic and cultural co-operation during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The main projects assisted by France during the last three years are Water management project for Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking, Water management project for Jaipur, Hydraulic Shovels for CIL, Blasting Gallery at VK7 of SCCL, Setting up of Geo-scientific Centre at the Geological Survey of India, Installation of fuse gates in Gujarat, Creation of two hatcheries in West Bengal and Gujarat, Exploration of platinum group of metals in Orissa, Fusegate for Upper Tunga Dam, Karnataka and Sterilisation and milk packaging (NDDB and Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Board). Financial agreement within the framework of Indo-French Protocol during the last three years is as follows :

1994	FF 266.30 million (Rs. 186.4 crore)
1994	FF 370.07 million (Rs. 259.04 crore)
1994	FF 151.00 million (Rs. 105.7 crore)

(d) The details of the projects under consideration for Indo-French Economic cooperation are Supply of Oceanographic equipment and Technical and Scientific assistance to the Indian Programme of Sea-bed investigation in the EEZ of India by Ministry of Mines for FF 550-600 million, Setting up an Environmental Geology Section at the Geological Survey of India by Ministry of Mines for FF 40 million, River Basin Management Policy in Gujarat by Ministry of Water Resources for FF 21 million.

The programmes under consideration for Indo-French Cultural cooperation are in the fields of (a) Art and Culture, (b) Language and Education, (c) Social Sciences and Humanities, (d) Books and Publications, (e) Youth and Sports and (f) Cinema and Audiovisuals.